

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 5 and 12 have been amended and new claims 17-23 have been added.

Accordingly, claims 1-23 are pending in the application, as reflected below.

1. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators, comprising

(a) at least one fuel selected from the group consisting of guanidine nitrate, dicyanamide, ammonium dicyanamide, sodium dicyanamide, copper dicyanamide, tin dicyanamide, calcium dicyanamide, guanidine dicyanamide, aminoguanidine bicarbonate, aminoguanidine nitrate, triaminoguanidine nitrate, nitroguanidine, dicyandiamide, azodicarbonamide, tetrazole, 5-aminotetrazole, 5-nitro-1,2,4-triazole-3-on, salts and mixtures thereof;

(b) at least one of an alkali metal nitrate, an alkaline earth metal nitrate, ammonium nitrate, an alkali metal chlorate, an alkaline earth metal chlorate, ammonium chlorate, an alkali metal perchlorate, an alkaline earth metal chlorate, or ammonium perchlorate, and

(c) at least one essentially chemically-inert slag trap with a high fusion point, said slag trap being at least one of Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 , or ZrO_2 particles formed by a gas phase reaction so as to have a specific surface area of at least about $40 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

2. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, wherein component (a) is present in an amount of about 20 to 60 wt.-%, component (b) is present in an amount of about 38 to about 63 wt.-%, and component (c) is present in an amount of about 5 to 22 wt.-%.

3. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, wherein component (a) is selected from the group consisting of nitroguanidine, 5-aminotetrazole, dicyandiamide, dicyanamide, sodium- and calcium dicyanamide, guanidine nitrate, and mixtures thereof.

4. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, wherein component (b) is selected from the group consisting of sodium-, potassium- and strontium nitrate.

5. (Currently Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, wherein a portion of the particles comprising component (c) ~~is a carrier for~~ include a layer of platinum metal or a metal alloy of platinum metals or copper in a catalytically effective [layer] thickness.

6. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 5, wherein the platinum metal is selected from ruthenium, osmium, rhodium, iridium, palladium and platinum.

7. (Withdrawn) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 5, wherein the metal alloy of platinum metals is at least one of a Pt/Pd alloy or a Pt/Rh alloy.

8. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 5, wherein the weight portion of the catalyst with respect to component (c) is 0.1 to 5 wt.-%.

9. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, wherein component (a) is nitroguanidine, component (b) is strontium nitrate and component (c) is highly dispersed Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 or ZrO_2 .

10. (Original) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 9, wherein component (a) is present in an amount of 45 to 51 wt.-%, component (b) is present in an amount of 39 to 45 wt.-% and component (c) is present in an amount of 9 to 11 wt.-%, with respect to the total composition.

11. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, further including a component (d) that is at least one slag former selected from the group consisting of alkali metal carbonates, alkaline earth metal carbonates, alkali metal oxides, alkaline earth metal oxides, silicates, aluminates, aluminum silicates, silicon nitride and iron(III)oxide.

12. (Currently Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 11, wherein component (d) is present in an amount of about 2 to 12 wt.-%, ~~preferably in an amount of about 4 to 10 wt.-%.~~

13. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, further including a component (e) that is at least one binder being soluble in water at room temperature.

14. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, further including a component (e) that is at least one binder selected from the group consisting of cellulose compounds, polymers of one or more polymerizable olefinic unsaturated monomers, a metal salt of stearic acid being insoluble in water at room temperature and graphite.

15. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 14, wherein the binder is present in an amount of 0 to 2 wt.-%.

16. (Previously Amended) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, wherein the propellant is suitable for use as at least one of a gas-generating agent in airbags, an extinguishing agent or a propellant.

17. (New) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, wherein component (a) is present in an amount of about 28 to 52 wt.-%, component (b) is present in an amount of about 38 to about 55 wt.-%, and component (c) is present in an amount of about 8 to 20 wt.-%.

18. (New) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 1, wherein component (a) is present in an amount of about 45 to 51 wt.-%, component (b) is present in an amount of about 39 to about 45 wt.-%, and component (c) is present in an amount of about 9 to 11 wt.-%.

19. (New) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 5, wherein the weight portion of the catalyst with respect to component (c) is 0.2 to 1.2 wt.-%.

20. (New) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 11, wherein component (d) is present in an amount of about 4 to 10 wt.-%.

21. (New) Propellant for gas generators according to claim 14, wherein the binder is present in an amount of 0.3 to 0.8 wt.-%.

22. (New) Propellant for gas generators, comprising

(a) at least one fuel selected from the group consisting of guanidine nitrate, dicyanamide, ammonium dicyanamide, sodium dicyanamide, copper dicyanamide, tin dicyanamide, calcium dicyanamide, guanidine dicyanamide, aminoguanidine bicarbonate, aminoguanidine nitrate, triaminoguanidine nitrate, nitroguanidine, dicyandiamide, azodicarbonamide, tetrazole, 5-aminotetrazole, 5-nitro-1,2,4-triazole-3-on, salts and mixtures thereof;

(b) at least one of an alkali metal nitrate, an alkaline earth metal nitrate, ammonium nitrate, an alkali metal chlorate, an alkaline earth metal chlorate, ammonium chlorate, an alkali metal perchlorate, an alkaline earth metal chlorate, or ammonium perchlorate, and

(c) at least one essentially chemically-inert slag trap with a high fusion point, said slag trap being at least one of highly dispersed Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 , or ZrO_2 particles formed by a gas phase reaction so as to have a specific surface area of at least about $40 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

23. (New) Propellant for gas generators, comprising

(a) at least one fuel selected from the group consisting of guanidine nitrate, dicyanamide, ammonium dicyanamide, sodium dicyanamide, copper dicyanamide, tin dicyanamide, calcium dicyanamide, guanidine dicyanamide, aminoguanidine bicarbonate, aminoguanidine nitrate, triaminoguanidine nitrate, nitroguanidine, dicyandiamide, azodicarbonamide, tetrazole, 5-aminotetrazole, 5-nitro-1,2,4-triazole-3-on, salts and mixtures thereof;

(b) at least one of an alkali metal nitrate, an alkaline earth metal nitrate, ammonium nitrate, an alkali metal chlorate, an alkaline earth metal chlorate, ammonium chlorate, an alkali metal perchlorate, an alkaline earth metal chlorate, or ammonium perchlorate, and

(c) at least one essentially chemically-inert slag trap with a high fusion point, said slag trap being at least one of highly dispersed Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 , or ZrO_2 particles formed by a gas phase reaction so as to have a specific surface area of at least about $40 \text{ m}^2\text{g}$, wherein a portion of the particles include a layer of platinum metal or a metal alloy of platinum metals or copper in a catalytic effective thickness.